

out. These bonds can only be issued until the end of 2010 and I urge communities to take advantage of this landmark program. Although there is no limit on the number or amount of bonds that can be issued, the clock is ticking and the end of 2010 will be here before you know it.

I am not surprised that Build America Bonds are reinventing the municipal bond market. They are a good deal for investors and our communities. They have freed up financing for badly needed infrastructure construction, and ensured long-term economic growth.

I would also like to highlight the Recovery Zone Build America Bonds program. Recovery Zone Bonds are much like Build America Bonds but are designed to help communities most adversely affected by the recent recession.

These highly targeted bonds offer an even more generous subsidy of 45 percent of the interest to investors. Treasury allocates these bonds based on employment declines in 2008. So, the harder an area is hit, the more Recovery Zone Bonds it can issue, creating jobs where they are needed most.

In some cases, these bonds will make the difference between whether these projects come to fruition or not. In other cases, they will lower the cost of projects and allow the community to reinvest those savings in other projects.

As with Build America Bonds, Recovery Zone Bonds will only be issued until the end of 2010. That is why I am encouraging communities facing high unemployment to take advantage of the billions of dollars available in Recovery Zone Bonds.

I also encourage my colleagues in Congress to begin working now to continue the success of Build America Bonds. As Congress struggles to find funding for a new transportation bill, innovative approaches like Build America Bonds should be part of the solution.

The Build America and Recovery Zone Bond programs are working. They are providing much needed jobs to folks in our communities while strengthening essential infrastructure. They have given investors a profitable opportunity to invest in America. They are giving our children better schools, building energy efficient power grids, providing cleaner water and better roads. In short, they work.

Build America Bonds are examples of how Congress can innovate creative solutions to rebuild our country and our economy. I urge my colleagues and our constituents to use them.

ANNE SLAUGHTER ANDREW

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I thank you very much for allowing me to express my support for Anne Slaughter Andrew.

The strong relationship between the United States and Costa Rica is one of

mutual respect, shared democratic principles, and a commitment to protecting Costa Rica's abundant natural resources. Costa Rica is a worldwide leader in green energy and sustainability—it currently generates more than 90 percent of its electricity from sustainable sources and has committed to being carbon neutral by 2021.

In recommending my fellow Hoosier, Ms. Andrew, I have the benefit of being able to speak from personal experience. When I was Governor of Indiana, I appointed her to the Indiana Natural Resources Council, an organization which engages in the conservation of Indiana's natural resources and park lands. That is one of many positions in Ms. Andrew's professional life that demonstrates her strong commitment to environmental conservation and clean energy initiatives.

Although Costa Rica covers only 0.01 percent of the Earth's landmass, it is home to approximately 5 percent of the Earth's biodiversity. The United States is committed to protecting this biodiversity through conservation efforts that contribute to the stabilization of Costa Rica's economy.

Ms. Andrew's leadership and involvement with The Nature Conservancy, TNC, in multiple capacities, including as a member of the President's Advisory Council, has spanned a decade and is a strong testament to her unwavering commitment to the preservation of Costa Rica's—and our planet's—natural resources.

Her most recent endeavor as principal of New Energy Nexus has placed her at the cutting edge of the clean energy economy. These combined experiences render her uniquely qualified to represent the United States as it looks to strengthen partnerships with Costa Rica in the field of green energy initiatives. Her service also includes founding and directing Anson Group LLC, a biotech consulting company that she co-led towards sustained growth and national recognition.

The post of Ambassador to Costa Rica carries with it the significant responsibility of managing the diplomatic personnel in country and overseeing the safety of the estimated 1 million Americans who visit Costa Rica each year and the thousands of Americans who live there full time. In her career, Ms. Andrew has demonstrated herself to be a skilled manager who is highly capable of undertaking this responsibility.

I have confidence that Ms. Andrew, if confirmed, will uphold our country's strong relations with Costa Rica.

#### WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, today is World AIDS Awareness Day. We dedicate this day to educating Americans and citizens all over the world about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and promoting awareness and prevention of this disease.

Despite advances in medical technology and treatment options, racial

and ethnic minorities and young gay men continue to suffer in disproportionate numbers. African Americans account for 12 percent of the U.S. population, but make up almost half of the 1 million Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Black youth and young adults between the ages of 13 to 24 make up 55 percent of all reported HIV infections. Also, Black women account for almost 70 percent of all new female AIDS cases. It is also the main cause of death for both Black men and women between the ages of 25 to 44.

We continue to make considerable progress in caring for citizens with HIV/AIDS and in raising awareness, but today I call upon my colleagues to join me in demanding that we do even more. I was proud to support the expansion of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Program in the Senate, a bill which President Obama recently signed into law. This important piece of legislation makes investments in care and treatment services, and also funds prevention and outreach programs—programs that will be improved and augmented by the sweeping health care reforms currently under consideration by the Senate. As we move forward, I will continue to work to promote awareness, education, and prevention of HIV/AIDS, and will be an ardent supporter of programs that care for those afflicted by this disease.

World AIDS Awareness Day is a chance for citizens of the United States and people all over the world to get proactively involved by getting educated, and by promoting treatment and testing of HIV/AIDS. Together, we can beat this disease.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 111-4: Protocol Amending Tax Convention with France with 1 declaration and 1 condition (Ex. Rept. 111-1)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

#### VIII. RESOLUTION OF ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),*

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration and a condition.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 31, 1994, as Amended by the Protocol signed on December 8, 2004, signed on January 13, 2009, at Paris, together with a related Memorandum of Understanding, signed January 13, 2009 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 111-4), subject to the declaration of section 2 and the condition of section 3.

Section 2. Declaration. The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: